

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-40 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus, which performs a service provided by a first operating instruction and a second operating instruction in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, comprising:

registration means for registering in advance predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use said apparatus;

input means for use by ~~[[said]]~~ the user to enter ~~[[said]]~~ user information and a request for the first operating instruction ~~request~~ for ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus;

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first authentication means for employing ~~[[said]]~~ the predetermined registration information registered by said registration means and ~~[[said]]~~ the user information entered by ~~[[said]]~~ the user at said input means to determine whether ~~[[said]]~~ the first operating instruction is authorized for the user ~~is an authorized user~~;

transmission means for, based on ~~[[the]]~~ results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus ~~[[a]]~~ the second operating instruction and ~~[[said]]~~ the user information ~~that are~~ entered at said input means;

second authentication means for obtaining from ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus ~~[[the]]~~ results of an authentication process, performed for ~~[[said]]~~ the user information received from said transmission means, to determine whether ~~[[said]]~~ the second operating instruction is

authorized for the user is authorized to use said on the different apparatus; and

determination means for employing the results obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether [[said]] the user is to be permitted to use [[said]] the service.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the predetermined registration information and [[said]] the user information each includes at [[the]] least a user ID and a password.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by said scanner means using a printer function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by

said scanner means using a storage function of ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner means by using a facsimile transmission function of ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus that performs a service provided by a first operating instruction and a second operating instruction in cooperation with a different apparatus accessible across a network, comprising:

registration means for registering, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus;

reception means for receiving user information and ~~[[an]]~~ a request for the second operating instruction request for said apparatus, both of which are entered by ~~[[a]]~~ the user at ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus on ~~[[said]]~~ the network;

authentication means for employing ~~[[said]]~~ the predetermined registration information registered by said registration means and ~~[[said]]~~ the user information received by said reception means to determine whether ~~[[said]]~~ the user is an authorized user, wherein the

second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different apparatus; and

determination means for employing [[the]] results obtained by said authentication means to determine whether [[said]] the request for the second operating instruction request received by said reception means is to be accepted.

A1 Claim 7 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein [[said]] the predetermined registration information and [[said]] the user information each includes at [[the]] least a user ID and a password.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

printing means for outputting data to a printer,

wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for employing said printer printing means to print image data read by [[the]] a scanner function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

storage means for storing data,

wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second

operating instruction is an instruction for employing said storage means to store image data read by [[the]] a scanner function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

facsimile transmission means for transmitting data by facsimile,

wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second

operating instruction is an instruction for employing said facsimile transmission means to transmit, to a predetermined destination, image data read by [[the]] a scanner function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A communication system ~~wherein~~ comprised of at least a first device that performs a service in association with a second device accessible across a network,

wherein said first device ~~comprising~~ comprises:

first registration means for registering in advance predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use said first device;

input means for use by [[said]] the user to enter [[said]] user information and a request for an operating instruction ~~request~~ for said second device;

first authentication means for employing [[said]] the predetermined registration information registered by said first registration means and [[said]] the user

information entered by [[said]] the user at said input means to determine whether [[said]] a first operating instruction is authorized for the user ~~is an authorized user~~;

transmission means for, based on [[the]] results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to said second device [[said]] the user information and [[said]] the operating instruction ~~that are~~ entered at said input means, and

wherein said second device ~~comprising~~ comprises:

second registration means for registering, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use said second device to perform a second operating instruction;

reception means for receiving user information and [[an]] a request for the operating instruction request for said second device, both of which are entered by [[a]] the user at said first device;

second authentication means for employing [[said]] the predetermined information registered by said second registration means and [[said]] the user information received by said reception means to determine whether [[said]] the second operating instruction is authorized for the user ~~is an authorized user~~; and

determination means for employing [[the]] results obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether [[said]] the request for the operating instruction request received by said reception means is to be accepted.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A communication system according to claim

11, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the predetermined registration information and ~~[[said]]~~ the user information each includes at ~~[[the]]~~ least a user ID and a password.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A communication system according to claim 11, wherein said first device further comprises scanner means for reading a document and said second device further comprises printing means for printing data~~[[;]]~~, and wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the operating instruction is an instruction for employing said ~~printer~~ printing means to print image data read by said scanner means.

A, Claim 14 (currently amended): A communication system according to claim 11, wherein said first device further comprises scanner means for reading a document and said second device further comprises storage means for storing data~~[[;]]~~, and wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the operating instruction is an instruction for employing said storage means to store image data read by said scanner means.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A communication system according to claim 11, wherein said first device further comprises scanner means for reading a document and said second device further comprises facsimile transmission means for transmitting data by facsimile~~[[;]]~~, and wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the operating instruction is an instruction for employing said facsimile transmission means to transmit, to a predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner means.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A communication method ~~whereby~~ of an apparatus that performs a service provided by a first operating instruction and a second operating instruction in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

a registration step of registering in advance predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use the apparatus;

an input step of the user inputting user information and a request for the first operating instruction for the different apparatus;

a first authentication step of employing the user information entered by the user and a registration table, in which user information entered by a user and the predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are is registered in advance, to determine whether [[said]] the first operating instruction is authorized for the user is an authorized user;

a transmission step of, based on the obtained results of said first authentication step, transmitting to [[said]] the different apparatus [[an]] the second operating instruction and [[said]] the user information that are entered by [[said]] the user;

a second authentication step of obtaining from [[said]] the different apparatus [[the]] results of an authentication process, performed for [[said]] the user information that are transmitted in said transmission step, to determine whether [[said]] the second operating instruction is authorized for the user is authorized to use said different apparatus; and

a determination step of employing the obtained results obtained in said second

authentication step to determine whether [[said]] the user is to be permitted to use [[said]] the service.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 16, wherein [[said]] the predetermined registration information in [[said]] the registration table and [[said]] the user information each includes at [[the]] least a user ID and a password.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 16, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

A, wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by [[said]] the scanner using a printer function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 19 (currently amended): communication method according to claim 16, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by [[said]] the scanner using a storage function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 16, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by ~~[[said]]~~ the scanner by using a facsimile transmission function of ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A communication method ~~whereby~~ in which an apparatus connected to a network performs a ~~user authentication process~~ service provided by a first operating instruction and a second operating instruction in cooperation with a different apparatus accessible across the network, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a registration step of registering, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use the apparatus;

a reception step of receiving, from ~~[[a]]~~ the different apparatus ~~on said network~~, user information and ~~[[an]]~~ a request for the second operating instruction request for ~~[[said]]~~ the apparatus;

an authentication step of employing the user information and a registration table, in which ~~said user information and the predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are~~ is registered ~~in advance~~, to determine whether ~~[[said]]~~ the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first

operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different apparatus; and

a determination step of employing ~~the obtained~~ results of said authentication
step to determine whether ~~said received~~ the request for the second operating instruction request is
to be accepted.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim
21, wherein [[said]] the predetermined registration information and [[said]] the user information
each includes at [[the]] least a user ID and a password.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim
21, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

an output step of outputting data to a printer,

wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second
operating instruction is an instruction for outputting, from [[said]] the printer, image data read by
[[the]] a scanner function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim
21, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

a storage step of storing data in a storage device,

wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second
operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in [[said]] the storage device, image data read

by [[the]] a scanner function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

a transmission step of transmitting data by facsimile to a predetermined destination,

wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to [[said]] the predetermined destination, image data read by [[the]] a scanner function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A communication method ~~whereby at least a first device and a second device mutually communicate with each other across a network and each perform a user authentication process, comprising:~~

~~a determination step whereat said first device employs a registration table in which user information entered by a user and predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are registered in advance, to determine whether said user is an authorized user;~~

~~a transmission step whereat, based on the obtained results, said first device transmits to said second device an operating instruction request and said user information that are entered by said user;~~

~~a reception step whereat said second device receives said user information and~~

~~said operating instruction request output at said transmission step;~~

~~a determination step whereat said second device employs a registration table in which said user information received at said reception step and predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are registered in advance, to determine whether said user is an authorized user, and~~

~~an accepting step whereat said second device employs the obtained results to determine whether said operating instruction request received at said reception step is to be accepted of a communication system, which includes at least a first device that performs a service in association with a second device accessible across a network, comprising:~~

at the first device:

a first registration step of registering in advance predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use the first device;

an input step of the user entering user information and a request for an operating instruction for the second device;

a first authentication step of employing the predetermined registration information registered at said first registration step and the user information entered by the user at said input step to determine whether a first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

a transmission step of, based on results obtained at said first authentication step, transmitting to the second device the user information and the operating instruction entered at said input step, and

at the second device:

a second registration step of registering, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use the second device to perform a second operating instruction;

a reception step of receiving user information and a request for the operating instruction for the second device, both of which are entered by the user at the first device;

a second authentication step of employing the predetermined information registered at said second registration step and the user information received at said reception step to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user;
and

a determination step of employing results obtained at said second authentication step to determine whether the request for the operating instruction received at said reception step is to be accepted.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 26, wherein [[said]] the predetermined registration information and [[said]] the user information each includes at [[the]] least a user ID and a password.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 26, further comprising:

a reading step ~~whereat said~~ of the first device ~~employs~~ employing a scanner to

read a document; and

an output step ~~whereat said~~ of the second device ~~outputs~~ outputting data to a printer,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the operating instruction is an instruction for employing ~~[[said]]~~ the printer to print image data read by ~~[[said]]~~ the scanner.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 26, further comprising:

A₁ a reading step ~~whereat said~~ of the first device ~~employs~~ employing a scanner to read a document; and

a storage step ~~whereat said~~ of the second device ~~stores~~ storing data in a storage device,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in ~~[[said]]~~ the storage device, image data read by ~~[[said]]~~ the scanner.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 26, further comprising:

a reading step ~~whereat said~~ of the first device ~~employs~~ employing a scanner to read a document;

a transmission step ~~whereat said~~ of the second device ~~transmits~~ transmitting data to a predetermined destination by facsimile,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting image data read by ~~[[said]]~~ the scanner to a predetermined destination by facsimile.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A storage medium ~~on which is stored~~ storing a computer-readable program ~~that is to be executed by the computer of an apparatus that performs a service in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, said computer program comprising:~~

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~~a process for employing a registration table in which user information entered by a user and predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are registered in advance, to determine whether said user is an authorized user;~~

~~a process for, based on the obtained results, transmitting to said different apparatus an operating instruction and said user information that are entered by said user;~~

~~a process for obtaining from said different apparatus the results of an authentication process, performed for said user information that are transmitted, to determine again whether said user is authorized to use said different apparatus; and~~

~~a process for employing the obtained results to determine again whether said user is to be permitted to use said service~~ for implementing a communication method of an apparatus that performs a service provided by a first operating instruction and a second operating instruction in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, wherein the method comprises:

a registration step of registering in advance predetermined registration

information for a user who is authorized to use the apparatus;

an input step of the user inputting user information and a request for the first operating instruction for the different apparatus;

a first authentication step of employing the user information entered by the user and a registration table, in which the predetermined registration information is registered, to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

a transmission step of, based on results of said first authentication step, transmitting to the different apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered by the user;

A, a second authentication step of obtaining from the different apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information transmitted in said transmission step, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing the results obtained in said second authentication step to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the service.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 31, wherein [[said]] the predetermined registration information in [[said]] the registration table and [[said]] the user information each includes at [[the]] least a user ID and a password.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 31, said computer program further comprising wherein the method further comprises:

a ~~process for reading step of~~ employing a scanner to read a document,
wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by [[said]] the scanner using a printer function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 31,
~~said computer program further comprising wherein the method further comprises:~~

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a ~~process for reading step of~~ employing a scanner to read a document,
wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by [[said]] the scanner using a storage function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 31, ~~said computer program further comprising wherein the method further comprises:~~

a ~~process for reading step of~~ employing a scanner to read a document,
wherein [[said]] at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by [[said]] the scanner by using a facsimile transmission function of [[said]] the different apparatus.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A storage medium ~~on which is stored~~ storing a

computer-readable program that is to be executed by the computer of an apparatus that performs a service in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, said computer program comprising:

a process for receiving, from a different apparatus on said network, user information and an operating instruction request for said apparatus;

a process for employing a registration table in which said user information and predetermined information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus are registered in advance, to determine whether said user is an authorized user; and

A 1 a process for employing the obtained results to determine whether said received operating instruction request is to be accepted for implementing a communication method in which an apparatus connected to a network performs a service provided by a first operating instruction and a second operating instruction in cooperation with a different apparatus accessible across the network, the method comprising:

a registration step of registering, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use the apparatus;

a reception step of receiving, from the different apparatus, user information and a request for the second operating instruction for the apparatus;

an authentication step of employing the user information and a registration table, in which the predetermined registration information is registered, to determine whether the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different apparatus; and

a determination step of employing results of said authentication step to determine whether the request for the second operating instruction is to be accepted.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the predetermined registration information and ~~[[said]]~~ the user information each includes at ~~[[the]]~~ least a user ID and a password.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 36, ~~said computer program further comprising~~ wherein the method further comprises:

~~a process for~~ an output step of outputting data to a printer,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for outputting, by ~~[[said]]~~ the printer, image data read by ~~[[the]]~~ a scanner function of ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 36, ~~said computer program further comprising~~ wherein the method further comprises:

~~a process for~~ storage step of storing data in a storage device,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in ~~[[said]]~~ the storage device, image data read by ~~[[the]]~~ a scanner function of ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 36, ~~said~~
~~computer program further comprising~~ wherein the method further comprises:

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a ~~process for~~ transmission step of transmitting data by facsimile to a
predetermined destination,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ at least one of the first operating instruction and the second
operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to ~~[[said]]~~ the predetermined destination,
image data read by ~~[[the]]~~ a scanner function of ~~[[said]]~~ the different apparatus.
